



## Beaverton Police Department

4755 S.W. Griffith Drive  
Beaverton, Oregon 97005

Chief Geoff Spalding



# NEWS RELEASE

Officer Mike Rowe  
Public Information Officer  
(503) 969-6502 or 526-2275

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## **This Fourth of July Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over**

The Fourth of July is a favorite holiday for many Americans. Families and friends gather to celebrate our country with food, parades, parties, and fireworks. For many people, the celebration includes alcohol, but the holiday quickly goes from festive to fatal when people choose to drive after drinking. Over the July 4<sup>th</sup> holiday period in 2012 alone, 78 people were killed in alcohol impaired-driving crashes on our nation's roads.

To crack down on drunk driving this Fourth of July, the Beaverton Police Department will be out in full force, aggressively targeting those who put lives in danger. "For everyone's sake, don't drink and drive or you will be arrested. The 'Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over' campaign means zero tolerance for drunk driving—no excuses."

Data from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) show that 10,322 people were killed in drunk-driving crashes in the United States in 2012—representing a third of all crash fatalities. Data shows that the Fourth of July holiday period is especially deadly. During the July 4th period in 2012 (6 p.m. on July 3 to 5:59 a.m. on July 5), there were 179 people killed in crashes, and 44 percent of those crashes were alcohol-impaired.

Drunk drivers are more common at night, too. Over the July 4th period in 2012, more than a third (39%) of the drivers in nighttime fatal crashes (6 p.m. to 5:59 a.m.) were alcohol-impaired, as compared to 16 percent of drivers in fatal crashes during the day.

This Fourth of July holiday, you can show your patriotism by helping to make Beaverton roads safer for everyone. Law enforcement is not messing around this Independence Day: if you're caught driving drunk, you will be arrested. And keep in mind that aside from putting your life and the lives of others at risk, driving impaired can also lead to serious consequences. A DUI arrest can mean time in jail, loss of your license, and steep financial expenses; the average DUI costs about \$10,000.

The Beaverton Police recommend these simple tips to prevent drunk driving:

- Plan a safe way home before the fun begins.
- Before drinking, designate a sober driver.
- If you're impaired, use a taxi, call a sober friend or family member, or use public transportation.
- If you happen to see a drunk driver on the road, don't hesitate to contact the Beaverton Police by calling 911.
- If you know someone who is about to drive or ride while impaired, take their keys and help them make other arrangements to get to where they are going safely.

##BPD##

